



CSBG Success Story

Please submit success story to Jessica Simon at jessica.simon@commerce.wa.gov. If you have questions, contact Jessica at 360-725-2850. Due Date: The 10th of the month the story is due.

Date: 2/22/2010

Organization Name:	Skagit County Community Action Agency
Contact Person/Title:	Karen Parnell, Lynn Christofersen
Contact E-mail:	karenp@skagitcap.org, lynnc@skagitcap.org
Contact Phone #:	360-416-7585

1. Success Story is for:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARRA <input type="checkbox"/> FFY 09 (skip to question 8) <input type="checkbox"/> FFY 10 (skip questions 6 & 7)		
2. CSBG Project Name:	Increasing Local Volunteer Capacity		
3. Total Project Budget:	\$340,094		
4. Total CSBG Amount of Budget:	\$98,952		
5. Number of total clients expected to serve, with all funds for the project:	75-100		
6. Number of ARRA jobs expected to be created/retained as a result of this project:	1.3		
7. Number of ARRA jobs actually created/retained as a result of this project to date:	1.3		
8. Brief project/activity description:	Increase in volunteer services		
9. How will this project help clients, build community, and form new partnerships? What aspects of the project would you like to share with the public:			
<p>The Skagit Volunteer Center has seen many successes recently because of the CSBG ARRA funding. We were able to hire Charles Williams, an AmeriCorps*VISTA member to serve in the volunteer center to help reach our goals of expanding volunteerism in the community. Charles's background in graphic design has been invaluable for getting more interest in the volunteer center. Recently, the Skagit Volunteer Center partnered with the Skagit County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) to provide a resource for mobilizing community volunteers during natural and man-made disasters. COAD was created by local non-profits and government agencies to respond to the needs of low-income, elderly, and disabled community members after a disaster. The 1-800-Volunteer website, the volunteer center uses, will now be the hub for Skagit COAD. Charles also created brochures and other literature to get the word out for more organizations to get involved. Another new partnership has been created with the Skagit Homeless Coalition. The Volunteer Center has taken on the responsibility of listing volunteer opportunities for Skagit County's Project Homeless Connect, which is one day of services where guests can obtain medical and vision screening, dental, mental health and DSHS services, Washington State ID cards, housing information, haircuts and pet care. The one day project will take place in September and anticipates serving a large portion of Skagit County's homeless population.</p>			

The volunteer center and the AmeriCorps programs sponsored by the SCCAA have recently joined forces on a one-stop website for volunteerism. The website, www.serveNWwa.org, directs visitors to AmeriCorps positions and volunteer opportunities in Skagit, Whatcom, and Snohomish Counties. Staff write weekly blogs around issues related to volunteerism and AmeriCorps. The website also links to the Skagit Volunteer Center's online database of volunteer opportunities at www.skagitvolunteercenter.org.